Import of Cotton

3608. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal to import two lakh bales of cotton free of import duty for manufacture of hank yarn for distribution of handloom weavers has been dropped, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any proposal has been received from Members of Parliament to production of 225 million kgs. of hank yarn in cooperative spinning mills to meet half the requirements of handloom, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been received from Shri Pragada Kotaiah, M.P. (RS) for production of 225 million Kgs of hank yarn by providing working capital support to handloom weavers Co-operative societies. The proposal is under consideration.

Jute Mills in Andhra Pradesh

3609. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the size of labour force in these mills;

(c) what is the number out of them are working;

(d) whether any jute mill is lying closed in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what is the manner in which the workers are proposed to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) 4.

(b) 16,456.

(c) 2, as on 15-7-92.

(d) Two jute mills are lying closed in Andhra Pradesh, as on 15-7-92.

(e) The reasons for closure of these mills include *inter alia* financial/liquidity crisis and labour troubles arising therefrom.

(f) Government have taken several measures for the revival of these mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund, mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains, sugar, cement and urea purchase of B. Twill bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing financial, fiscal and market support. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce the preventive, remedial & ameliorative measures for the revitalisation of sick industrial companies. including jute mills.

Garment export during Eighth Five Year Plan

3610. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textiles Ministry has set an target of Rs. 21,700 crores for exports of different varieties of Garments for the year 1992-93;

(b) if so, what are the basis for this ambitious target; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.